

Dear Committee Members,

August 18,2020

I am strongly opposed to any new restrictions on the second amendment rights of Texas citizens. I am in favor of expanding areas where law abiding citizens can carry without penalty. I will briefly list some of the reasons why.

- 1) Universal background checks are not viable without universal gun registration. Otherwise there is no means to check who is in possession of a firearm at any given time. Gun registration is the “Holy Grail” of those who wish to deny citizens of their right to possess and bear arms. Without exception, anytime guns are registered they are eventually confiscated.
- 2) Red flag laws are subject to abuse. A disgruntled spouse or family member can cause a great amount of grief for an individual. Under these types of laws, the burden of proof falls on the accused. Presumption of innocence simply does not exist with this type of legislation. In nearly every case of recent mass shootings, there were ample warning signs that were ignored and could have been acted on with existing statutes.
- 3) Despite the sensationalism, the type of mass shooting such as occurred in Sutherland Springs and El Paso remain rare. It is interesting to note that the Sutherland Springs shooting was ended by an armed citizen using exactly the type of firearm that some wish to ban.
- 4) A firearm is nothing more than a tool. How that tool is used depends on whose hand is holding it. The number of law-abiding citizens that use and carry firearms vastly outnumber the ones that have evil intent. Reducing the number of locations that are prohibited from carry would do a lot to reduce certain types of crime. A “gun free zone” is only for those that obey the law. “Self-defense free zone” would be more appropriate.
- 5) Public safety is not the goal of those that desire to infringe on the second amendment. John Lott’s book “More Guns, Less Crime” is a very interesting study on the fact that more guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens reduces crime. Unfortunately, that is an inconvenient truth for the elites that wish to curb or eliminate the second amendment and the ability of average citizens to protect themselves and their loved ones. This discussion is not because some politicians are trying to preserve life, but rather another power grab by the elites that want everyone in society to be dependent on government. I find it curious that in most cases the ones calling for gun control on the premise of saving lives are the same ones demanding abortion on demand up to and including the moment of birth.

I appreciate the committee’s consideration of my position.

Respectfully, Robert Chalmers